

Appln No. 10/723,817
Amdt date August 6, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate for swimming pools surrounded by a deck, the lightweight fence comprising a plurality of poles, each of the plurality of poles including an insert ~~that is contained~~ within each pole and a pin ~~that is~~ fixedly attached to each insert, the pin protruding from ~~the~~ a bottom of each pole[:;], wherein the pin is configured to be inserted into the deck;

a mesh screen tensioned between the plurality of poles except at a gate opening in the lightweight fence, the mesh screen having top and bottom bindings;

[[a]] ~~the gate in the fence including~~ positioned at the gate opening and comprising a frame having a pair of spaced upright support members, a first horizontal brace for spacing the pair of spaced upright support members and a length of mesh screen tensioned between the pair of spaced upright support members;

support means capable of withstanding lateral tension forces of the mesh screen for supporting and latching the gate, the support means comprising at least a first gate pole of the plurality of poles attached to one of the pair of spaced upright support members on one side of the gate opening and a second gate pole of the plurality of poles attached to the other of the pair of spaced upright support members on another side of the gate opening;

hinges secured to the support means on one side of the gate; and

a latch device secured to the gate and to the support means on ~~the~~ an opposite side of the gate from the hinges;

~~wherein the pins are adapted to be inserted into the pool deck adjacent to the pool; and~~

~~wherein the pool deck has~~ comprising a plurality of sockets, each of the plurality of sockets adapted configured to receive one pin.

Appln No. 10/723,817
Amdt date August 6, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2008

2. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insert ~~is made of~~ comprises plastic.

3. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pin ~~is made of~~ comprises metal.

4. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support means ~~includes on each side of the gate a pair of gate poles inserted into the pool deck with~~ first gate pole and the second gate pole each include a cross member[[s]] attached to both of the pair of gate poles one of the pair of spaced upright support members.

5. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 4, wherein the gate includes a generally U-shaped frame opening upwardly with ~~the~~ a first horizontal brace secured to ~~the~~ lower ends of the pair of spaced upright support members and a second horizontal brace secured to the pair of spaced upright support members on ~~the~~ a pool side of the mesh screen at a height well below the top of the gate fabric.

6. (Currently Amended) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 1, wherein the insert ~~is~~ comprises polyvinylchloride.

7. (Currently Amended) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 1, wherein the pin ~~is~~ comprises stainless steel.

8. (Currently Amended) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 1, wherein the support means ~~includes on each side of the gate a pair of poles having~~ first gate pole and the second gate pole each include a plastic insert contained within each gate pole and a metal pin that is attached to each insert, the metal pin protruding from the a bottom of each gate pole, wherein the metal pins are ~~inserted into~~ in the pool deck and wherein cross members are attached to both of the gate poles.

Appln No. 10/723,817
Amdt date August 6, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2008

9. (Currently Amended) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 8, wherein the metal pin is attached to the plastic insert by an adhesive.

10. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate for swimming pools surrounded by a deck, the lightweight fence comprising a plurality of poles, each of the plurality of poles including an insert ~~that is contained~~ within each pole and a pin ~~that is~~ attached to each insert, the pin protruding from ~~the~~ a bottom of each of the plurality of poles and configured to be inserted into the deck;

a first length of mesh screen tensioned between the plurality of poles except at a gate opening in the lightweight fence defining the pool fence;

a gate in the fence including a frame having a pair of spaced upright support members and a second length of mesh screen tensioned between the pair of upright support members of the gate; and

support means to which the first length of mesh screen is attached for supporting the fence and gate and for latching the gate including a truss structure capable of isolating ~~the~~ lateral tension forces of the first length of mesh screen on opposite sides of the gate, the support means comprising at least one gate pole of the plurality of poles on each opposite side of the gate opening attached to one of the pair of spaced upright support members;

~~wherein the pins are adapted to be inserted onto the deck adjacent to the pool; and~~

~~wherein the pool deck has~~ comprising a plurality of sockets, each of the plurality of sockets ~~adapted~~ configured to receive ~~[[a]]~~ one pin.

11. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 10, wherein the inserts ~~of the poles are made of~~ comprises plastic.

12. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pin~~[[s]]~~ ~~are made of~~ comprises metal.

13. (Currently Amended) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 10, wherein the pin~~[[s]]~~ ~~are~~ is attached to the insert~~[[s]]~~ by an adhesive.

Appln No. 10/723,817
Amdt date August 6, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2008

14. (Currently Amended) A method for installing a self closing gate in a tensioned removable swimming pool fence comprising a plurality of poles, the plurality of poles including an insert ~~that is contained~~ within each pole and a pin ~~that is~~ attached to each insert, the pin protruding from ~~the~~ a bottom of each pole, the plurality of poles interconnected by flexible mesh fencing except at a gate opening, the method comprising:

inserting the pin[[s]] protruding from each of the plurality of poles into a deck surrounding a swimming pool with the flexible mesh fencing in tension to maintain the fence in tension, the deck having drilled sockets ~~adapted~~ configured to receive ~~the~~ each pin[[s;]], wherein ~~the~~ first and last poles of the plurality of poles ~~defining a~~ define the gate opening[[]], the first and last poles each constituting a pair of gate poles of the plurality of poles interconnected to each other to define a support structure capable of absorbing [[the]] tension of the flexible mesh fencing;

fabricating a gate including a pair of side rails, each side rail of the pair of side rails attached to one of the ~~first and last poles~~ pair of gate poles of the plurality of poles, a cross rail and flexible mesh tensioned between the pair of side rails;

hinging the first of the pair of side rails of the gate to the first of the pair of gate poles;
and

installing a latch between the second of the pair of side rails of the gate and the ~~last pole~~ second of the pair of poles of the tensioned fence;

whereby the gate is free to open and close without interference by the tension of the mesh ~~of the~~ fencing.

15. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the insert ~~is made of~~ comprises plastic.

16. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the pin is ~~made of~~ comprises metal.

Appln No. 10/723,817
Amdt date August 6, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2008

17. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the pin is attached to the insert with an adhesive.

18. (Currently Amended) A gate and a pair of gate poles for ~~[[a]]~~ the gate in a tensioned removable swimming ~~pole pool~~ fence ~~comprising a plurality of poles, the gate comprising a frame having a pair of spaced upright support members, each of the pair of gate poles comprising:~~

a lower end;

an insert ~~that is received~~ within the lower end of ~~the~~ each of the pair of gate poles;

and

a pin ~~that is~~ fixedly attached to the insert, the pin having a diameter smaller than ~~that a diameter~~ of the pole and a cylindrical portion that protrudes from the lower end ~~of the gate pole~~, the cylindrical portion terminating at a substantially flat bottom surface~~[[;]]~~, the pin being configured to be inserted into a drilled socket in a pool deck;

~~wherein the pin is adapted to be inserted into a drilled socket in a pool deck; and~~

the gate comprising a frame having a pair of spaced upright support members, wherein each of the pair of gate poles is attached to one of the pair of spaced upright support members to allow the gate to be free to open and close without interference from the tension of the ~~mesh fencing~~ removable swimming pool fence.

19. (Currently Amended) The gate and pair of gate poles according to claim 18 wherein the insert is ~~made of~~ comprises plastic.

20. (Currently Amended) The gate and pair of gate poles according to claim 18 wherein the pin is ~~made of~~ comprises metal.

21. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 1, wherein the pin is fixedly attached to the insert by an adhesive.

Appln No. 10/723,817
Amdt date August 6, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 6, 2008

25. (Currently Amended) The gate and pair of gate poles according to claim 18, wherein the pin is fixedly attached to the insert by an adhesive; and wherein the pin is removably insertable into the drilled socket.